

Attorney Docket No. 301700-00066

REMARKS

Upon a reinspection of Claim 7, Applicant has discovered two limitations that, in his view, are unnecessary in defining over the prior art. Claim 7 as last presented defined each of the mounting holes as having a stepped opening, which in the illustrated embodiment is meant to receive a screw or bolt head. But this "stepped opening" limitation is not relevant to the "strain delimiter" structure of Applicant's mounting holes. Applicant has defined, for each hole, a sidewall of nongasket material that extends from the outside of the frame inwardly to the plane occupied by the general receiving surface of the gasket. This "strain delimiter" structure ensures that the gasket won't be overcompressed by overtightening the mounting fasteners.

The "stepped opening" limitation has been moved out of Claim 7 to Claim 20, which is dependent on Claim 7.


Likewise, the "strain delimiter" functionality does not require any recitation of how the gasket is bonded to the frame. Therefore, Applicant has removed the "channel" structure, and the fact that the gasket is injection-molded into this channel, to new Claim 21, which depends from Claim 7.

With these amendments, the Application should nevertheless be in condition for full allowance and Applicant therefore urges the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance.

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No fee is believed due in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 503138 of Daspin & Aument, LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



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